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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : [REDACTED] Chief, G/RR

DATE: June 30, 1959

FROM : IRC/GE - G. Etzel Percy *GEP*

SUBJECT: Request for Assistance on Boundary Inventory Program

The Office of the Geographer has undertaken on the recommendation of the Bureau of the Budget a project entailing research, assembly, and maintenance of all the world's boundaries of international significance. For convenience, the overall project is referred to as a Boundary Inventory program or project. The end result should offer many advantages in geographic and cartographic documentation, not the least of which would be to assure consistency of boundary representation on official maps of the U.S. Government.

You have been sent a file setting forth the highlights of this program, but in brief the Office of the Geographer envisions a file for each boundary unit consisting of the following:

- (1) Length and status of boundary
- (2) Brief geographical description of boundary
- (3) Complete treaty documentation (in brief tabular form) giving date, authority, and reference to boundary. All boundary changes are taken into account--in detail after 1914.
- (4) Cartographic documentation in large, medium, and small scales by reference to best available maps in Washington.
- (5) Analysis of the significant problem(s) associated with each boundary unit, including cartographic illustrations where essential for clarification.

The Office of the Geographer has been able in the last year to make considerable progress on Parts 1, 2 and 3, completing most of Europe and North America and substantial parts of Africa and South America. Asia remains virtually untouched. The Army Map Service agreed to supply the necessary information for Part 4 and this part of the program is moving along smoothly.

Part 5, however, has not been started for any of the boundary units. This unfortunate situation results primarily from the small size of the staff of the Office of the Geographer. Routine Departmental problems leave a dearth of time for a heavy, long-range program demanding specialized investigation. As a consequence the completion of the project is not yet in sight. Such important areas as Eastern Europe, the Middle East,

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South Asia, and the Far East are being delayed. In contrast questions and problems continue to pour in relative to the boundaries of these areas. The Bureau of the Budget while cognizant of the problems of the limited staff still desires to see an implementation of its original Budget Circular and hoped to initiate some action on July 1, 1959.

In order to expedite the project under discussion, the Office of the Geographer requests the cooperation of CIA in working out Part 5 for those boundary units within or touching upon the Sino-Soviet Bloc. Specifically, they are:

I. International Boundaries:

Albania-Greece
Albania-Yugoslavia

Bulgaria-Greece
Bulgaria-Romania
Bulgaria-Turkey
Bulgaria-Yugoslavia

Romania-Hungary
Romania-Soviet Union
Romania-Yugoslavia

Hungary-Czechoslovakia
Hungary-Soviet Union
Hungary-Yugoslavia

Czechoslovakia-Germany
Czechoslovakia-Poland
Czechoslovakia-Soviet Union

Poland-Germany
Poland-Soviet Union

Soviet Union-Afghanistan
Soviet Union-China
Soviet Union-Estonia
Soviet Union-Finland
Soviet Union-Iran
Soviet Union-Latvia
Soviet Union-Lithuania
Soviet Union-Mongolia
Soviet Union-Norway
Soviet Union-Turkey

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Mongolia-China

China-Bhutan

China-Burma

China-Hong Kong

China-India

China-Korea

China-Laos

China-Lacao

China-Nepal

China-Sikkim

China-Vietnam

II. Special Lines:

East Germany-West Germany

Kashmir-Pakistan

Kashmir-India

Kashmir-China

China-Tibet

North Korea-South Korea

North Vietnam-South Vietnam

North Vietnam-Laos

Japan-Soviet Union

It is hoped that staffs in your various regional offices can work with us on these boundaries. We will furnish the units with Parts 1-4 worked out and ask that the hand of your experts supply all or sections of Part 5.

One of the prime bases for this request is the common requirement that CIA and the Department of State--along with other agencies--have for timely boundary data which have U.S. Government approval. In addition, your organization undoubtedly has much source material from which to help finalize these boundary studies.

jhp